

Ecosystem Analysis At The Watershed Scale

EAWS TEAM PROGRESS REPORT

NOVEMBER 2002

Red River core interdisciplinary EAWS Team Members:

Kara Chadwick – Team Leader
Carolyn Wren – Aquatics Specialist
Mike Hays – Botanist
Michelle Godawa – Wildlife Biologist
Pat Green – Ecologist
Steve Armstrong – Archaeologist
Becky Winkler – GIS/Computer Specialist

What's New?

We have a Participating Agreement between the Nez Perce National Forest and the Nez Perce Tribe (NPT). While Stephanie Bransford, Habitat Biologist with the Nez Perce tribe, has been an integral member of the EAWS Team all along, the NPT has identified additional members to participate in the analysis through providing input and aiding in analysis. We look forward to working together with these new members.

What Have We Been Working On?

A lot of work has been accomplished since you received the first update in August. Data collection is winding down and we are beginning data compilation and analysis. We collected data in a variety of resource areas:

Vegetation: Over 2500 acres were surveyed, these surveys will aid in verifying or identifying old growth areas and special communities (e.g., wetlands) and in characterizing vegetation in the watershed; surveys were also completed to assess noxious weed occurrence and trends and to identify rare plant species occurrence; these field surveys located 11 new occurrences of 7 target species (i.e., sensitive or state-listed species).

Soils: Soil samples were collected from numerous sites in the watershed, in old (circa 1960/70) harvest units and in other disturbed areas to determine existing soil impacts.

Wildlife: Approximately 3,000 acres were surveyed for lynx habitat; furbearer routes were established for survey in December through February; wolf recovery was tracked in the watershed; surveys for black-backed woodpeckers and for goshawk nesting were completed.

Cultural Resources: Approximately 500 acres of previously unsurveyed areas were surveyed and several of the 50 known Heritage sites were revisited to gather additional information and perform condition assessments.

Aquatics: Data was collected from 3 permanent Forest Plan monitoring sites; 12 headwater streams were surveyed; upland sites were inspected for erosion or

disturbance; approximately 400 meters were surveyed for fish species identification; approximately 2 miles of main Red River were surveyed; and a basin-wide survey was completed under contract on approximately 18 miles of streams in Red River. All this data will be used to characterize stream and fish habitat conditions and fish distribution.

Transportation: Approximately 247 miles of the 587 miles of roads in the watershed were surveyed for road conditions and approximately 160 culverts were surveyed for fish passage.

Recreation and Trails: Surveys were completed in the roadless areas to determine use; inventories of dispersed site use along the road system were also completed; although the trail system has been inventoried in past years, trails with traditional high use were surveyed this past season.

If you would like further information or clarification on any of the inventories described, please feel free to contact an EAWS Team member at 983-1950.

Interdisciplinary Field Trips: The EAWS Team also hosted interdisciplinary field trips twice a month. Each member of the EAWS Team facilitated a trip, identifying the theme and discussion threads, focusing on areas of concern. The trips were open to all ad hoc team members as well as anyone who was interested. Personnel from the National Oceanographic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Idaho Fish and Game (IDFG), and the Nez Perce Tribe joined us on several of these trips.



Are We On Schedule?

Summer 2002: Field season is about wrapped up and much work was accomplished.

Fall 2002: We are finishing up data input and will begin our analysis. Each resource area will draft functional recommendations. We will begin work on Chapter Four, documenting the historic and existing conditions.

Winter 2002/2003: Each resource will identify functional recommendations to bring to the integration phase in early winter 2003. We are still on track for having a draft document out for review in the spring of 2003. The conclusion of the document is a set of integrated resource management recommendations that will provide the framework for site-specific NEPA projects.

For more information
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